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Let's Have a Beautiful Lawn

FERRY-MORSE SEED CO.

DETROIT

SAN FRANCISCO

Let's Have A Beautiful Lawn

No matter where you live, the essentials of a beautiful lawn are the same—soil properly prepared, suitably enriched, and free from weeds and weed seed; high quality grass seed; continual care and upkeep.

Prepare the Soil Carefully

To get best results, the top two or three inches of soil should be as rich and loamy as for a garden. It is almost impossible to get a fine stand of grass on heavy clay or on light sand. To clay soil add peat moss, straw, or other humus and possibly some sand, mixing it thoroughly. Unusually sandy soil needs loam and well rotted manure or other humus. Beneath the top layer there should be from several inches to a foot of loamy soil capable of absorbing and storing moisture. Grass does not root deeply, but it thrives better when the layer just beneath the grass roots is of good mechanical texture.

Good Drainage Is Important

Water standing on the lawn for any length of time is sure to injure the grass. A gentle, rounding slope away from the house when grading is done will usually insure surface drainage. The right kind of subsoil which will not only retain needed moisture, but which will also carry away the surplus will take care of most other drainage problems.

Apply Fertilizers

A top dressing raked lightly into the surface soil just before seeding is likely to bring an earlier, more vigorous growth of grass. Use a complete commercial fertilizer high in nitrogen, pulverized sheep manure, dried cow manure, or bone meal. Apply at the rate of about four pounds to a hundred square feet. Distribute the fertilizer evenly, using a spreader if possible. There are on the market inexpensive spreaders which can also be used for seeding the lawn.

If fertilizer is not used at seeding time, apply commercial fertilizer at the rate of about two pounds per hundred square feet when the grass is two or three inches tall. Use the hose to wash the fertilizer from the grass into the soil. This will

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prevent the fertilizer from burning the grass blades and will make it immediately available to the roots. Repeat the applications of fertilizer two or three times during the summer to keep the lawn at its best. It is an important practice for established lawns as well as for new lawns.

Buy Only High Quality Seed

Reliable seed firms handling high grade lawn grass seeds make sure their seeds are as free from noxious weed seeds and other impurities as possible. All lawn grass seeds offered by Ferry-Morse Seed Co. are carefully milled, and the formulae used consist of the highest quality grasses for permanent lawns. Frequent germination tests are also made to be sure a high percentage of the seeds will grow if conditions are right. Repeated experiments on cheap grass seed mixtures show that they contain weed seeds, chaff, seeds of poor germination and frequently timothy, often disguised on packages under its scientific name, *Phleum pratense*. The roots of timothy grow from a bulblet, and no matter how closely they are set together they never form turf. Timothy has no value as a lawn grass and is not sold by reliable seedsmen for that purpose.

Sow at a Favorable Time

As a usual thing, fall is the best time for seeding a lawn. The seeding should be done early enough so that the grass can get a good start before freezing weather. Just before autumn rains set in is an excellent time—choosing a day when you think it is likely to rain. If the grass gets a good start in fall, it will come up vigorously in spring and can compete with weeds better than when sown in spring.

Spring seeding is usually successful in the North if it can be done early enough so that the grass can get a good start before hot, dry weather comes on. Sow just before the last fall of snow, if possible; as the snow melts, it carries the seed into the ground. Preparing the seed bed the fall before

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is an advantage as it is often difficult to get it ready early enough in spring.

Sow the Seed Properly

Rake the top soil to make it fine and smooth before seeding. Choose a calm day. For ordinary mixtures when seeding a new lawn scatter the seed quite thickly, using about one pound of seed to every one hundred to three hundred square feet of ground, depending upon variety. For reseeding an established lawn, somewhat less may be used. Seeding rate for all lawn grass seeds is shown on last page of folder.

To distribute grass seed evenly, divide it into two equal parts, scattering half of it lengthwise and the other half crosswise of the area—or use a seeder. Rake the soil lightly after seeding.

Rolling Is Beneficial

After seeding, roll the seed bed with a light roller to bring the seed into contact with the soil. On small areas, tamp it with a board or the back of a flat shovel. Do not walk on the lawn area after seeding. In the northern states, roll an established lawn with a heavy roller *after the ground is fairly well dried out in spring*. This levels the surface and firms the soil around the grass roots, correcting the looseness of the turf caused by winter heaving.

Mow Regularly

For a new lawn have the mower sharp and set as high as possible. Cut when the grass is two or three inches tall. This helps to check weeds, and the grass clippings are short enough to be left where they fall. They will furnish a valuable mulch during the hot days of summer. In time the clippings go back into the soil to form humus.

Soak, Don't Sprinkle, the Lawn

During the heat of summer, if watering is to be done, do it after five or six o'clock in the afternoon. Wet the soil to a

depth of several inches. A good soaking with the hose once a week is far better than a light sprinkling every day or so. This is good practice for both new and old lawns.

To Keep Out Weeds

Most top soils, and *not the grass mixtures*, contain many weed seeds. It is important, therefore, if time permits, to give the weed seeds in the soil two or three weeks to sprout—then hoe out the plants. This gives the grass seed a better chance to get a start than when it has to contend with weeds; and the weeds have no chance to go to seed. After the grass begins to grow, keep conditions ideal for a thick turf so that weeds cannot get a foothold; the application of fertilizer at regular intervals, and the seeding of every bare spot as soon as discovered are great helps in keeping weeds at a minimum.

To Destroy Weeds

Even with the best precautions, some weeds are likely to appear, especially if there are vacant lots nearby where weeds are continually going to seed all summer. The following are most common:

CRAB GRASS—You will recognize this weed by the broad coarse leaves and spreading flower spikelets of the young plants. Dig them up before they go to seed, and be sure to destroy the plants as they are likely to root again if left on the ground. During the hot summer months leave the grass at least two inches high when cutting; the shade produced makes an unfavorable condition for crab grass plants to grow.

DANDELION—Dig out each plant *two to three* inches below the surface *before the flowers go to seed*. Shallow cutting is worse than useless because the remaining root will form several new plants.

CHICKWEED—A creeping plant with small oval leaves of light, bright green and tiny white flowers. Dig out each patch as you find it.

Whenever weeds are removed, it is a good plan to sprinkle a little lawn grass seed on the spot. Keep a supply of Ferry-Morse Lawn Grass Seed on hand for the purpose. The weeds will begin to work if you don't.

Ferry-Morse Lawn Grass

Lawn Grass Varieties and Their Uses

For all general purposes, the Ferry-Morse lawn grass seed mixtures described on the opposite page are well proportioned and very satisfactory. However, for those who desire to use separate varieties, the following information is given:

Bent, Astoria—Spreads by underground rootstocks. Fine bladed grass for forming dense turf. Very satisfactory to use for lawns but requires constant care. Sow about 1 lb. to each 350 to 400 sq. ft. of area.

Bent, Seaside—Spreads rapidly by means of stolons or runners above ground to form a smooth, mat-like turf. Especially adapted to putting greens. Not satisfactory combined with other grasses. Sow about 1 lb. to each 300 to 350 sq. ft. of area.

Chewing's Fescue—Excellent for sites exposed to hot sun, as terraces and golf courses. Will also form a close lasting turf in shady places. Sow about 1 lb. to each 150 sq. ft. of area.

Kentucky Blue—The basis of the best lawn grass mixtures except in the far South. It grows most luxuriantly in early summer, forms a permanent turf, and is adapted to all soils. Sow about 1 lb. to each 250 sq. ft. of area.

Perennial Rye (Imported)—Useful in mixtures because it grows very rapidly and helps protect finer grasses in their early growth. More hardy in mild than in cold climates. Sow about 1 lb. to each 100 sq. ft. of area.

Red Top—Especially good to use with Kentucky Blue because it is at its best in late summer. Succeeds in all soils and stands much tramping. Sow about 1 lb. to each 300 sq. ft. of area.

Rough Stalked Meadow—One of the best grasses to use in mixtures for shady locations where some moisture is available. Grows rapidly. Sow about 1 lb. to each 250 sq. ft. of area.

White Dutch Clover—Often added to mixtures in small quantity to aid in forming turf because of its quick growth and creeping habit. Sow at the rate of about $\frac{1}{4}$ lb. to each 100 sq. ft. of area.

Best Seed for Every Lawn

For General Use

Fine Mixed—Makes fine lawns. Grows quickly and is permanent. Heavy proportion of Kentucky Blue with ample percentage of Red Top. Some White Dutch Clover. *No Timothy*. Sow at the rate of about 1 lb. to each 250 to 300 sq. ft. of area.

Extra Fine Mixed—A blend of the finest types of lawn grasses obtainable, including Astoria Bent. Unusually high purity. *No Clover. No Rye Grass. No Timothy*. Sow at the rate of about 1 lb. to each 250 to 300 sq. ft. of area.

For Shady Spots

Shady Lawn Mixture—Grasses that thrive in the shade of trees, buildings, or other places where there is little sun. Consists principally of Rough Stalked Meadow and other grasses especially suited to these conditions. Sow at the rate of about 1 lb. to each 250 to 300 sq. ft. of area.

Especially Adapted to Western Conditions

Morse's California Lawn Mixture—Only the finest leaved grasses for making thick, perennially green turf. Kentucky Blue, Red Top, Chewing's Fescue (no white clover or rye grass). Sow at the rate of about 1 lb. to each 200 to 300 sq. ft. of area.

Morse's Golden Gate Park Mixture—Hardy, perennial grasses that quickly form a handsome turf under temperate Pacific Coast conditions. Perennial Rye, Kentucky Blue, Red Top, and a very little White Dutch Clover. Sow at the rate of about 1 lb. to each 100 to 150 sq. ft. of area.

COMPLETE THE PICTURE

Add to the Beauty of That New Lawn the Charm of Flowers . . .

A velvety green lawn is the background of your home grounds picture. Make it beautiful by following suggestions in this folder.

Flowers lend the proper note of color and accent to the picture. Plant them freely in front of fences and shrubs and along walks and drives.

Among the best annuals for a border are tall Snapdragons, Cosmos, Celosia, Larkspur, giant Zinnias, and lofty Marigolds. Group lower growing flowers in front, as Petunia, Phlox, Bachelor Button, Nasturtium, Shirley Poppy.

Tie lawn and flower border together with a dainty white edging of Sweet Alyssum, or for gayer touches of color, Lobelia, Portulaca, Pansy, Verbena, Dwarf Petunia.

Your neighborhood dealer who handles FERRY'S SEEDS can supply you with Ferry-Morse lawn grass seeds and flower seeds. Varieties not found in the Ferry Display can quickly be secured through your dealer.

FERRY-MORSE SEED CO.

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San Francisco